

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.     An innersole system for an article of footwear, comprising:  
              an orthopedic intermediary support member including a cupped heel portion  
              having a concave upper bearing surface and a midfoot portion having a medial longitudinal arch  
              support with a curvilinear upper bearing surface; and  
              a user-selectable exchangeable innersole; wherein the exchangeable innersole  
10       mates with the orthopedic intermediary support member to provide a user-selected orthopedic  
              correction factor.
2.     The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the cupped heel portion extends above a  
              most posterior cephalad portion of a calcaneus.
- 15           3.     The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the cupped heel portion is continuously  
              coupled to the midfoot portion.
4.     The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the orthopedic intermediary support  
20       member is fixedly attached to the article of footwear.
5.     The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the exchangeable innersole is selected  
              from the group consisting of a pronation innersole, a supination innersole, and a neutral  
              innersole.
- 25           6.     The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the user-selected orthopedic correction  
              factor comprises one of a pronation correction factor, a supination correction factor, and a neutral

correction factor.

7. The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the cupped heel portion and the midfoot portion of the orthopedic intermediary support member cooperate with the exchangeable innersole to invert a subtalar joint of a foot to a position of slight inversion to lock a midtarsal joint during ambulation of the foot.

8. The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the concave upper bearing surface of the cupped heel portion comprises a heel cup angle of at least 60 degrees.

9. The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the midfoot portion of the orthopedic intermediary support member extends from the cupped heel portion to an opposite end corresponding to an anterior end of a metatarsal bone.

10. The innersole system of claim 1 wherein a lower bearing surface of the exchangeable innersole is contoured to conformably mate with the concave upper bearing surface and the curvilinear upper bearing surface of the orthopedic intermediary support member.

11. The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the exchangeable innersole includes at least one protrusion on a lower bearing surface of the exchangeable innersole to lock into a corresponding recess on the concave upper bearing surface of the orthopedic intermediary support member.

12. The innersole system of claim 1 wherein the article of footwear is selected from the group consisting of an athletic shoe, a running shoe, a tennis shoe, a cross-trainer shoe, a walking shoe, a children's shoe, a work shoe, a dress shoe, a casual shoe, an open-toe shoe, an orthopedic shoe, a sandal, a military shoe, an all-terrain shoe, a diabetic shoe, a specialty shoe, and a boot.

13. The innersole system of claim 1 further comprising:  
an absorptive layer disposed on an upper bearing surface of the exchangeable innersole.

5 14. An article of footwear, comprising:  
an orthopedic intermediary support member fixedly attached to the article of  
footwear, the orthopedic intermediary support member including a cupped heel portion having a  
concave upper bearing surface and a midfoot portion having a medial longitudinal arch support  
with a curvilinear upper bearing surface; and  
10 a user-selectable exchangeable innersole; wherein the exchangeable innersole  
mates with the orthopedic intermediary support member to provide a user-selected orthopedic  
correction factor.

15 15. The article of footwear of claim 14 wherein the article of footwear is selected  
from the group consisting of an athletic shoe, a running shoe, a tennis shoe, a cross-trainer shoe,  
a walking shoe, a children's shoe, a work shoe, a dress shoe, a casual shoe, an open-toe shoe, an  
orthopedic shoe, a sandal, a military shoe, an all-terrain shoe, a diabetic shoe, a specialty shoe,  
and a boot.

20 16. The article of footwear of claim 14 further comprising:  
an absorptive layer disposed on an upper bearing surface of the exchangeable innersole.

25 17. A method of using a multi-component orthopedic system, comprising:  
providing an article of footwear having an orthopedic intermediary support  
member fixedly attached to the article of footwear;  
determining an orthopedic condition of a user;  
selecting one of a set of exchangeable innersoles, wherein the exchangeable  
innersole mates with the orthopedic intermediary support member to provide an orthopedic

correction factor; and

inserting the selected exchangeable innersole into the article of footwear.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the set of exchangeable innersoles includes a  
5 pronation innersole, a supination innersole, and a neutral innersole.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
exchanging the selected exchangeable innersole with a second exchangeable  
10 innersole based on the orthopedic condition of the user.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein exchanging the selected exchangeable innersole  
with second exchangeable innersole comprises removing the selected exchangeable innersole  
from the article of footwear, and inserting the second exchangeable innersole into the article of  
15 footwear.